

## SUNDAY EVENING

97-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Landmines."

### RESOLUTION ALANDMINES®

WHEREAS, our partner church, the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola has called upon the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ to advocate for a comprehensive global ban on anti-personnel landmines;

WHEREAS, in Angola alone there are estimated to be between nine million and twenty million mines and an estimated 70,000 people of that country have become amputees as a result of landmines;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, through the Board for World Ministries, has been providing aid to victims of landmines;

WHEREAS, landmines amount to endless war, remaining hidden for years after soldiers leave the battle fields to destroy and terrorize communities and returning refugees;

WHEREAS, many military leaders, including Retired General Norman Schwartzkopf have called for such a ban on anti-personnel landmines;

WHEREAS, the use of landmines results not only in unconscionable human casualties, but also pollutes the land and the environment and renders farm land untillable; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Board for World Ministries and the Office for Church in Society are urging congregations and conferences of the United Church of Christ to join the international effort to lift our voices in opposition to the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

- C supports a comprehensive global ban on anti-personnel landmines;
- C urges the Government of the United States to participate in the "Ottawa Process" to implement such a ban;
- C requests the president of the United Church of Christ to communicate this resolution to the Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, and the National Security Advisor, Mr. Samuel Berger;
- C urges congregations of the United Church of Christ and their individual members are to raise their voices in support of a ban on anti-personnel landmines.

Subject to the availability of funds.